

Ciguayo language

Ciguayo (Siwayo) was the language of the Samaná Peninsula of Hispaniola (now the Dominican Republic) at the time of the Spanish Conquest. The Ciguayos appear to have predated the agricultural Taino who inhabited much of the island. The language appears to have been moribund at the time of Spanish contact, and within a century it was extinct.^{[1][2]}

Ciguayo was spoken on the northeastern coast of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Magua from Nagua southward to at least the Yuna River, and throughout all of the Samana Peninsula.^[3]

Lexicon

Little is known of Ciguayo apart from it being a distinct language from Taino and neighboring Macorix. The only attested words are "gold", *tuob* (presumably [tu'ob] or ['twob]) and a few place names such as *Quizquella* (presumably [kis'keja]), meaning "very mountainous." This makes it unlikely that the language is Arawakan or Cariban, as languages of those families have simple V and CV syllable structures even in loanwords that were originally CCV or CVC. Granberry & Vescelius (2004) speculate that the closest parallels might be in the Tolan languages of Honduras.^[3]

Granberry & Vescelius (2004) analyze the morphemes of *tuob* 'gold' and *Quizquella* 'very mountainous' as:

to-w-b(e) 'gold'

- *to-* (cf. Eastern Tol *t* 'heavy(ness)')
- *-w-* (cf. Eastern Tol *-w-* 'its')
- *-b(e)* (cf. Eastern Tol *-pe* 'stone')

k^his-k^he-ya 'very mountainous'


- *k^his-* (cf. Eastern Tol *k^his* 'hard rock')
- *-k^he-* (cf. reduplication in Eastern Tol)
- *-ya* (cf. Eastern Tol *yo* 'tree')

See also

- Pre-Arawakan languages of the Greater Antilles

References

Ciguayo	
	Siwayo
Native to	Dominican Republic
Region	Samaná Peninsula
Ethnicity	Ciguayos
Extinct	16th century
Language family	unclassified; Tolan ? (one of the pre-Arawakan languages of the Greater Antilles)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None</i> (mis)
Linguist List	0yv (http://multitree.org/codes/0yv)
Glottolog	<i>None</i>



Precolombian languages of the Antilles.

☐ Ciguayo

Ciboney Taíno, Classic Taíno, and Iñeri were Arawakan, Karina and Yao were Cariban. Guanahatabey, Macorix, and Ciguayo are unclassified.

1. Granberry, Julian (2012). "Lenguas indígenas del caribe" (<http://dialnet.unirioja.es/descarga/articulo/4742096.pdf>) (PDF). *Cuba Arqueológica*. **5** (1): 5–11.
 2. Guitar, Lynne (2005). "Following Linguistic Trails across Half a Millennium Provides New Answers to Old Questions" (<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=11101>). *H-LatAm (H-Net)*.
 3. Granberry, Julian, & Gary Vescelius (2004). *Languages of the Pre-Columbian Antilles*. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press. ISBN 0-8173-5123-X.
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